

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An electrical unit comprising:

a wireless communications port;

control circuitry coupled to the port, the control circuitry having, at least, an inactive mode interrupted by a periodic limited duration active mode, including circuitry to monitor the port for receipt of an expected synchronizing wireless signal and receipt of a wireless signal from at least one of a plurality of remote electrical units, during the active mode, and, responsive thereto to determine if a received signal is an expected signal, the control circuitry remains in the active mode until no unit in the plurality is transmitting a wireless signal.

2. (Original) A unit as in claim 1 which includes at least a radio frequency receiver coupled between the port and the control circuitry.

3. (Original) A unit as in claim 2 which includes additional circuits to evaluate the received synchronizing signal for the presence of a signal expected indicium, and, responsive thereto, to determine if an additional message is expected.

4. (Original) A unit as in claim 3 which includes further circuitry to extend to active mode and to acquire and respond to any expected additional message.

5. (Original) A unit as in claim 3 where the control circuitry comprises, at least in part, a processor and executable instructions.

6. (Original) A unit as in claim 5 which includes timer circuitry, coupled to the processor, for initiating the periodic, limited duration active mode.
7. (Original) A unit as in claim 5 which includes executable instructions for at least receiving data using a different protocol than exhibited by the synchronizing signal.
8. (Original) A unit as in claim 5 which includes executable instructions for transmitting data with a different protocol than the received synchronizing signal.
9. (Original) A unit as in claim 7 which includes executable instructions that sense and decode multiple data signals received from multiple sources substantially simultaneously.
10. (Currently amended) A unit as in claim 9 where the sense and decode process comprises bit arbitration;[‡]
11. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
transmitting a wireless synchronizing signal on a periodic basis;
entering an active mode to receive and evaluate the synchronizing signal, and responsive thereto, entering one of a data receiving or a data transmitting mode with the data having a different protocol than the synchronizing signal; and
remaining in the active mode for a period of time at least until no further data is received.
12. (Original) A method as in claim 11 which includes evaluating multiple simultaneously received data signals and discerning one from another.
13. (Original) A method as in claim 12 which includes minimizing energy requirements at a plurality of synchronizing signal receiving locations between such signals.

14. (Original) A method as in claim 11 which includes transmitting data signals at different offsets relative to the synchronizing signal in response to at least one of, a substantially random number, or, a unique device identifier.

15. (Currently amended) A communication system comprising at least twothree devices that can wirelessly transmit and receive signals;

a first device wirelessly transmitting a synchronization signal;

at least a second device receiving the wireless synchronization signal, the second device synchronizes functions to the synchronization signal such that the energy consumption of the second device is reduced for a period of time between synchronization signals; and

at least a third device receiving the wireless synchronization signal, the third device synchronizes functions to the synchronization signal such that the energy consumption of the third device is reduced for a period of time between synchronization signals, where the second device is capable of receiving a wireless signal from the third device and the third device is capable of receiving a wireless signal from the second device, and where the second device and the third device enter an active mode upon receipt of the synchronization signal and remain in the active mode at least for a period of time during which a wireless signal is received from at least the third device or at least the second device.

16. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 15 where at least oneofthe second device orthethird device includes a battery.

17. (Original) A system as in claim 15 where the synchronization signal is transmitted periodically with a predetermined timing.

18. (Original) A system as in claim 15 where the synchronization signal includes at least one of RF frequencies, optical frequencies or sonic frequencies.

19. (Original) A system as in claim 15 where the synchronizing function includes transmitting a signal representative of a detector state.

20. (Original) A system as in claim 18 where a detector state comprises at least one of an alarm, trouble, voltage, input, or sensor condition.

21. (Original) A system as in claim 18 where the first device receives the transmitted signal.

22. (Original) A system as in claim 18 wherein the said transmitting of a signal includes at least in part a frequency that is the same as the synchronization signal frequency.

23. (Original) A system as in claim 15 where the synchronization signal includes variable frequencies.

24. (Original) A system as in claim 15 which includes a plurality of devices receiving the wireless synchronization signal.

25. (Original) A system as in claim 24 where members of the plurality each include circuitry to transmit data signals at different offsets from the synchronizing signal in response to at least one of, a substantially random number, or, a unique device identifier.

26. (New) A communication system comprising a plurality of wireless units where each wireless unit in the plurality receives a wireless synchronization signal, each wireless unit is capable of receiving a wireless signal transmitted from a second wireless unit within the plurality, and energy consumption of each wireless unit is reduced for a period of time between no longer receiving a wireless signal from the second wireless unit and receiving the wireless synchronization signal.